

Delta's car gets 451 mpg

■ The car was designed to promote the application of classroom teachings, according to teacher Randy Glaze.

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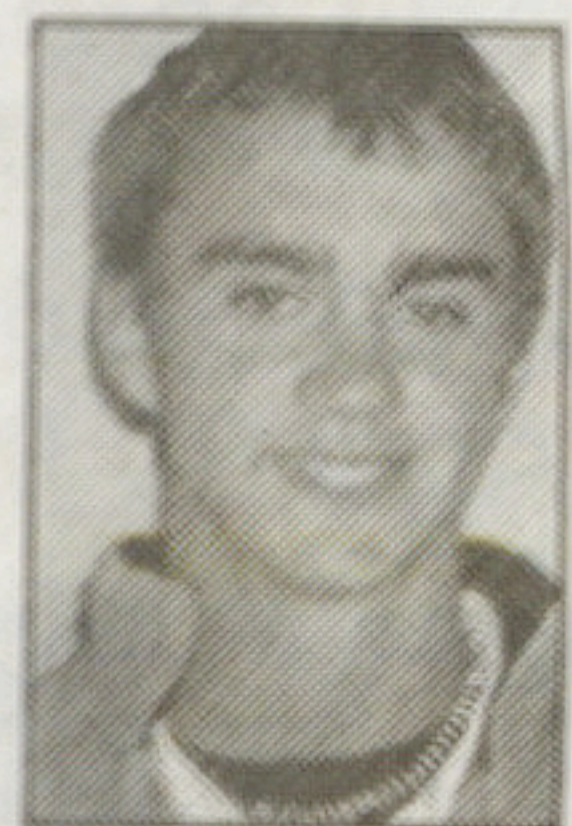
MUNCIE — Tired of high gas prices? Looking for a car that gets good gas mileage?

The students in Delta High School's technology education class may have just the car. Students in the class built a car that gets 491.59 miles per gallon.

The car was built for the 10th annual Indiana Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Alliance (IMSTEA) Super Mileage Challenge on Monday at Indianapolis Raceway Park. The students placed eighth in the stock car competition and first in math, science and technology integration for the design.



Burt



Keller

The idea of the contest is to design a car that is fuel-efficient in a real-life application of classroom teachings, technology education teacher Randy Glaze said.

As part of the competition, the students raised money to buy the materials for the car, designed and built the car. The engine was furnished by Briggs and Stratton for the contest.

"This is pure engineering," Glaze said. "I've always viewed technology education as the area where the math, the science, the English all comes together. This is not a required class, but it should be. It prepares them for life. What we got to work on computer didn't actually work in real life."

The students had to tweak the initial design about 24 times before it operated correctly, team co-captain Jared Burt said.

"It's a lot easier drawing something than it is to make it work," the senior said.

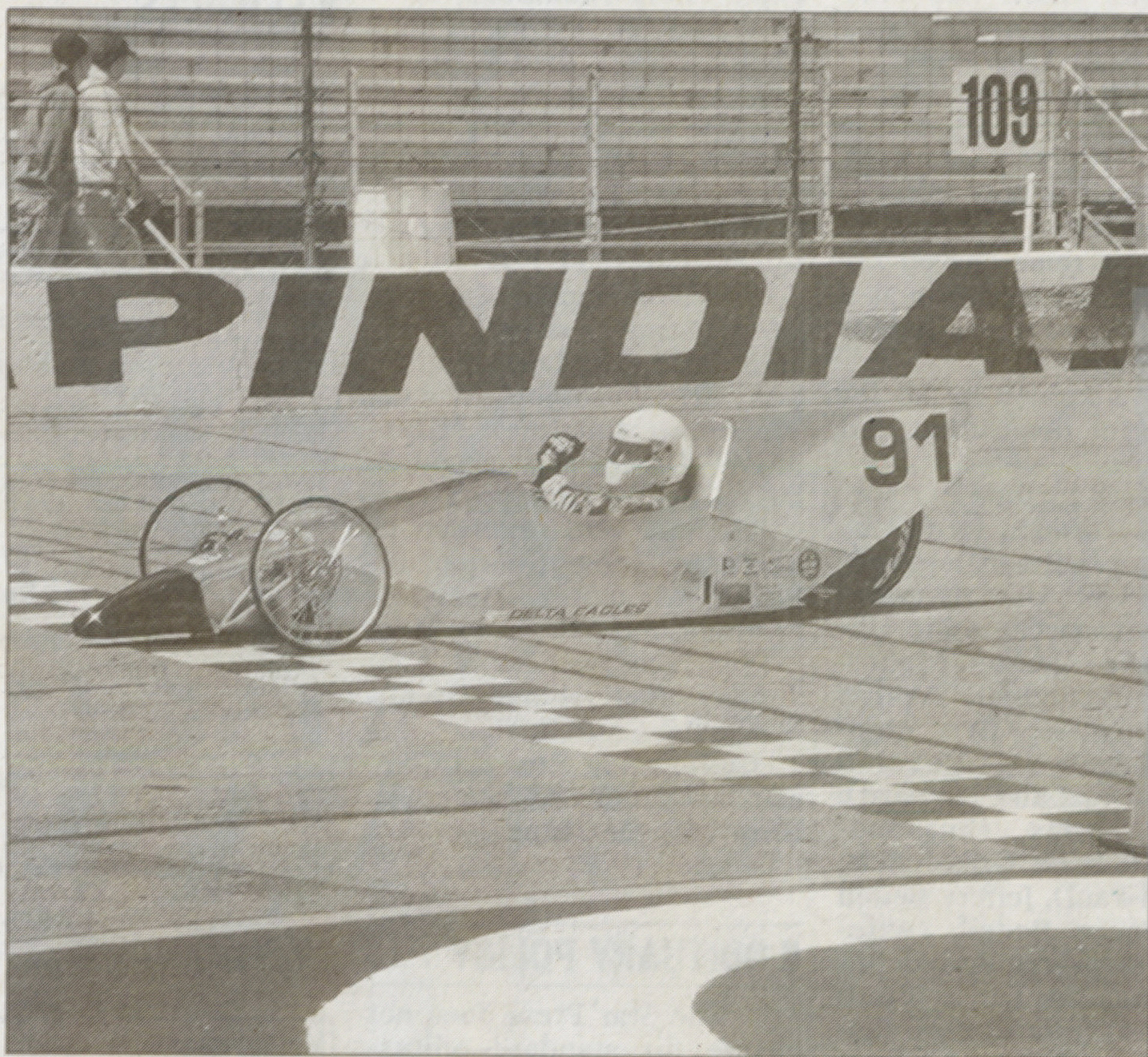


PHOTO PROVIDED

DREW KELLER crosses the finish line during school competition at Indiana Raceway Park.

One major change was the width of the car, Burt said. The car needed to be wide enough so that driver Drew Keller, a senior, could get in and out in 15 seconds and move around to start the car from inside. The idea to have a canopy on top of the car also didn't work. With his helmet on, Keller sat too high for the canopy to fit comfortably on the vehicle.

"Nothing was real huge changes, though," Captain Brad Marshall added. "We built a small prototype."

Junior Corbin Black was in charge of fund-raising. The students wrote proposals, sent out donation letters and created a PowerPoint presentation to raise money to build the car. Black estimates the car cost about \$2,000 to \$3,000 to build.

■ Contact news reporter Oseye T. Boyd at 213-5830.

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